



President's Report

Ah summer... it's just around the corner now! I'm sure you are all as ready as I am to hang up the costumes, wrenches, clipboards and scripts. I'm guessing most of us also spend a fair bit of time in the summer reflecting on our past year, and planning for the year ahead. In this season's newsletter we hope that you will find much inspiration from show photos, lesson ideas and festival reports. Much has happened this year with ABCDE members and students around the province.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners. ABCDE has been fortunate to forge some great partnerships through our Conference and our Festival, opening up multiple scholarship opportunities for our students. The ABCDE is also in a position where we can now offer scholarships to students in both tech theatre and performance. Congratulations also to Youthwright participants and to those who presented at the Provincial Festival. How lucky are we to work with such talented and creative young people?

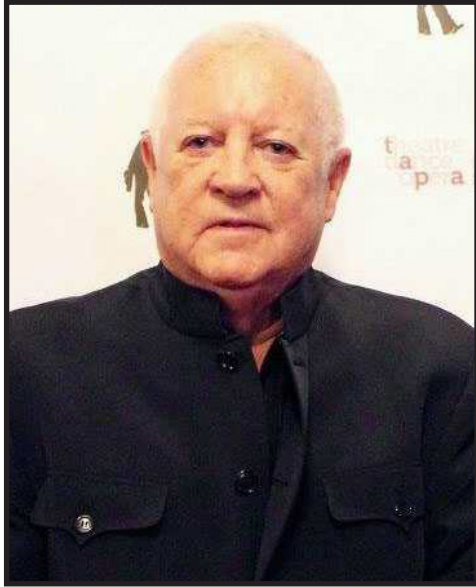
I was unable to personally attend either of our big student festivals, Provincial Drama Festival or Goodwill Shakespeare Festival, because of production commitments here at home, and I sure feel like I missed out! Congratulations to all of the Festival organizers and presenters for yet another year of fabulous learning and playing opportunities! These things all happen because of the hard work of your ABCDE executive and I find myself once again feeling so very grateful for this amazing team of people! Much love and gratitude to Lana O'Brien, Colin Plant, Jenn Ohlhauser, Gord Hamilton, Christine Knight, Katie Everson, Zelda Coertze and Ryan Grenier. And of course a shout out to Sharon Conrad who continues to work so hard on our behalf! If you ever have questions please reach out to one of us. We are here to help.

Speaking of questions, I'm sure many of you are wondering what's happening with bargaining and with the proposed funding model for next year. Your BCTF continues to work hard on your behalf and it certainly looks like this work will continue into the summer. You can stay up to date on the BCTF website in the member portal. I strongly encourage you to consider sending letters to MLAs expressing concerns about the proposed funding model, specifically about the proposed prevalence funding and the proposed per student rather than per class funding issues. We need to make sure our voices are heard. Many of us work outside the timetable and if these classes are no longer funded many of us will lose work! We NEED to speak up for ourselves. At this point no further information has been provided, but I suspect more will come out in the summer when 'we aren't looking'. In the meantime let's stay positive and keep doing the important work that we all do as drama teachers.

Your executive is busy planning the fall conference "BREAKING THROUGH", which will take place at SFU School of Contemporary Arts this year, just across the street from Vancouver Film School. Be sure to spread the word about our amazing conference. We hope to see all of you there! Wherever your summer plans take you I hope that it finds you relaxed, rejuvenated and ready for another great year in theatre!

Sincerely;
Heather Lee ~ President, ABCDE

A Curtain Call for Wayne Fairhead



The ABCDE congratulates Wayne on his retirement as Executive Director of the National Theatre School Festivals (formerly Sears Canada Festivals.)

Wayne Fairhead has had an illustrious career in education for 38 years, teaching and advising at all levels-elementary, secondary and tertiary. He retired from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) in 2004. Wayne has been a member of several Dora Mavor Moore and Chalmers Awards juries for Theatre for Young Audiences, including the inaugural juries for both. He Co-chaired the Arts Education Expert Panel for the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training that reviewed and reinvigorated Arts Education at that time.

Wayne was the Executive Director of the Sears Ontario Drama Festival from 1991 until its recent transition into the National Theatre School (NTS) Festival. He instigated equivalent Festivals in BC and Atlantic Canada a decade ago. All are now NTS Festivals. During his leadership with the Festivals he has partnered them with SummerWorks, IATSE and Playwrights Canada.

Publications include: DRAMA VOICES (Editor); "Establishment or Alternative: Two Canadian Models" in Learning Through Theatre (Author); "Empowerment and the Changing Curriculum" in the Australian drama education magazine ADEM (Author); "Drama in Education: Canada" in Contemporary Canadian Theatre: New World Visions(Author);TYA5: Theatre for Young Audiences, Playwrights Canada,1998 (Co-Editor); and Festival Voices Playwrights Canada Press, 2010 (Co-Editor).

Wayne is a Life. Congratulations Wayne.

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2018/2019

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Colquitz Middle School, Victoria - The Little Mermaid



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Seaquam Secondary School, Delta, BC

- We offer Explorations 8 Drama, Drama 9, Drama 10, Theatre Performance 11 & 12, Theatre Production 9-12, Theatre Company / Musical Theatre 8-12 (in alternate years), and Directing/Scriptwriting 11/12. I usually run the Stage Crew Club as an extra-curricular volunteer club, from which we draw most of our Tech and Running Crew members for each year's show. I've also run an extra-curricular Improv Club, although not this year.

- We just completed a very successful and well-received run of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* which ran April 29th to May 4th, 2019, with double-casting for the eight largest female roles. This is my 4th year teaching Drama at Seaquam, and the first three years' major productions were: *The Three Musketeers* (Spring 2016, mostly gender-swapped casting), *Annie* (Spring 2017), and *The Great Hollywood Musical Disaster* (double-casting for the 18 largest roles).

- We have a 660-seat theatre that was built when the school was built in 1977.

- Teachers in our program: Mark LeBourdais



Congratulations to the ABCDE 2019 Scholarship Recipients

James McIntosh - Performance Scholarship Brookswood Secondary, Langley



“Thank you for allowing my dream to be put further on the road to success. I am incredibly grateful for any and all help or support that I receive and appreciate it greatly.”

James will be attending Vancouver Film School in the Fall.

Sierra Shaw - Production/Tech Scholarship W.L. Seaton Secondary, Vernon



“I am extremely honored to be the recipient of your Production Scholarship. As this year’s recipient, I am thankful for the financial benefits this bursary will offer me in the creative arts. Since I will be attending university in a different province, receiving this scholarship will be extremely beneficial for my education.”

Sierra will be attending Concordia University in the Fall.

Good Will Shakespeare Festival 2019

This year 400 students, with their teachers, gathered together in Vernon, BC to celebrate “the Bard” at the 19th Good Will Shakespeare Festival. The students participated in 9 workshops over the three days in either the 9 option rotation, or in one of the 6 intensive options. Good will, as always, was shared between the students from 19 schools from across the province. During the day, students took classes in theatre, music, dance, costume design, technical theatre, and writing. In the first two evenings 9 schools shared their Bard inspired work and bonded at a Karaoke Dance party! On the last day, the students who were in the Intensive rotations presented the INCREDIBLE work they created in their sessions at the Gala Showcase.

Next year we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary of this festival, which will start on Shakespeare’s birthday - April 23. Registration for schools will open September 3rd. Please visit the goodwillshakespeare.ca website and like the Vernon Goodwill Shakespeare Festival Facebook page to get the latest updates on the festival! We are bringing in the BIG GUNS for 2020!!



B.C. National Theatre School Festival 2019

It was another fabulous year at the provincial drama festival held at Douglas College in New Westminster from May 2-5. The delegates came from around the province to showcase their work in 12 productions during the evenings, and select from 20 workshops during the days. Peter Jorgenson was the Festival Adjudicator and offered his informed remarks of the work both in public and private adjudications. Some highlights for the delegates were the food truck lunches and late evening social activities which included an open mic night and a themed Dance in which most of the delegates were in full costume. All of the delegates enjoyed staying at the Festival hotel, the Inn at Westminster Quay, as the facility is in a beautiful location on the Fraser River in the heart of New Westminster and only a 15 minute walk to Douglas College. Mark Halliday, from Moonrider Productions, was on-site as the Digital Storyteller of all things Festival. Mark's job was to capture through video and still photography all elements of what makes the B.C. NTS Festival unique. Mark's edited work will be featured on both the B.C. and National Theatre School Festivals websites within the coming school year.

Congratulations to Miranda Baker from Charles Hays Secondary in Prince Rupert who is the recipient of the \$1000.00 B.C. NTS Festival Scholarship.

Congratulations to James McIntosh from Brookwood Secondary in Langley who is the recipient of the \$500.00 B.C. NTS Festival Scholarship.

We extend a big THANKYOU to all the Drama teachers and their students who made this festival a blast! We hope to see you again next year!



Mamma Mia - Brookwood Secondary, Langley





Carihi Secondary,
Campbell River -
James and the
Giant Peach





Elephant's Graveyard - W.L. Seaton Secondary, Vernon

All good stories start with compelling characters. This one started as a conversation with my friend, and fellow drama teacher in Smithers, Heather Lee. We were talking about productions we had done that really stayed with us for years after the production. This was hers. The more I heard about it, the more I wanted to hear. She sent me a copy of the script and I instantly fell in love with this play. George Brant is a masterful writer. He has taken the tragedy of Mary's story, and turned it into poetry.

I wanted this production to be a vehicle for raising awareness about the treatment of captive performance animals. For us, connecting this play directly to The Elephant Sanctuary brought the story full circle. This true story took place in Erwin, Tennessee in 1916. Today, The Elephant Sanctuary is in Tennessee. This production raised \$3000 to send to that Sanctuary. ~ Lana O'Brien, director/teacher



Lesson Ideas

Charades – an old drama favourite.

Here are some variations to play with.

Variation 1: Mirror Charades

This is a variation on regular charades except that the person 'on stage' performing the charade does not know what the charade is. Instead a second person has that information and they stand behind the audience and facing the person on stage. This person acts out the charade while the person on stage attempts to mirror them. The audience may not turn around. This makes guessing quite a bit harder and is a lot of fun!

Variation 2: Clue

As in the board game Clue, the group is attempting to guess a murderer, a location in which the murder took place, and a weapon used for the murder, however, the options are endless! The game starts by sending 4 people out of the room. A fifth person comes up on stage and does the 3 ask fors (1 – murderer, 2- location, 3 – weapon). Once they have chosen 3 completely unrelated and random selections from the audience (ie Santa Clause in a science classroom with a roll of masking tape) the first person is invited back in the room. The information about the crime is communicated via charades. It is helpful to hold up 1, 2 or 3 fingers to indicate which of the 3 charades they are on. It is also helpful to give as much detail and context in the first charade as it gives the rest of the group more to work with and is much more fun to watch. Be careful not to pick suggestions that are 'too easy' to act out. The person who entered the room just watches. They may not ask questions or indicate whether or not they understand. Once finished the next person is let in the room and the watcher communicates the 3 things through charades (whether or not they understand they are to just repeat what they saw). This continues one at a time through to the last person. At the end the last person guesses. It is most fun when this last person takes on the role of a police officer or news broadcaster etc. and announces the horrible crime that happened! It can be fun to go back through the line and ask them what they thought they were doing.

Variation 3: Late For Work

One person leaves the room. They are the person who is late for work. 3 or 4 others take the stage. One of them is the boss, the others do the charades. The boss leads an "ask for" asking the audience for a bizarre story about why this person who left the room is late for work. After piecing together a story and clarifying that the charades actors know the story, you bring back in the late person. The late person begins frantically explaining why they are late. The stakes are that they want to keep their job! They guess at why they are late by watching the charades actors standing behind the boss acting out the story. The boss is able to speak and lead and give clues to the late person to help them get on the right track and eventually guess the whole story. The late person will need to cleverly explain the things that don't make sense or that were wrong guesses as they continue to explain their tardiness. The scene ends when they have guessed the whole story and the boss decides whether or not they still have a job. The audience helps them by clapping as they guess pieces of information correctly, ending with a louder clap when they reach the end of the story.

This type of charade can also be played in different contexts, i.e. a doctor explaining to a patient what their diagnosis is, or a student confessing to a principal about why they were sent to the office, etc.

Variation 4: Reverse Charades

As it sounds, the game is played in reverse where the whole team acts out a suggestion and one team member guesses.

Variation 5: Modelling Clay

Played with two people on stage, one is the artist and the other is the clay. They draw a suggestion from the bin and have to model their clay into a shape that the team uses to guess what the answer is.

Variation 6: Telephone Charades

Have a group of six to ten students line up on stage, all facing backwards. The first person in line draws a suggestion. That person taps player two on the shoulder. They turn and act out the charade. Player two taps player three and when three turns forward they act out the charade they think they saw. This continues on down through the line. The last person in line guesses the charade.

Variation 7: Three Rounds

Put a number of suggestions in a bowl or hat.

Round 1: Have the group go through all of the suggestions using verbal descriptions to prompt the team to guess. They may not say the word or any of part of the word in their descriptions. (This is much like the game Taboo, and you could use Taboo cards to set up this game). After the team has guessed all of the suggestions put them all back into the hat for round 2.

Round 2: Have the group go through all of the same suggestions acting them out via charades until each one is guessed again. After the team has guessed all of the cards put them back in the hat for a third round.

Round 3: Go through each suggestion one last time but this time you may say only one word as the clue. It can be fun to play this with two teams and have a race through the suggestions.

Visit thegamegal.com for printable charades list or down load an app for quick and easy charades suggestions!

Lesson ideas from Heather Lee



Correliou Secondary, Quesnel - "A Thousand Cranes" - at the NTS Provincial Drama festival
(photo by Mark Halliday - Moonrider Productions)



Highland Secondary, Comox - "epistolary" - at the NTS Provincial Drama festival
(photo by Mark Halliday - Moonrider Productions)

Become a member of the ABCDE... a PSA of the BCTF

#1 Do you want to join/subscribe to the ABCDE? Need to renew your membership? Online registration can be found at <https://www.bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx>

#2 Do you prefer to print off the application and mail it in? Find a link to the form at www.bcdramateachers.com

#3 Join our moderated email list-serv and connect with other Drama practitioners! Share ideas, ask for help, post info about your shows. Almost anything Drama-related goes. Anyone can read our list-serv, but only members/subscribers can post (membership has its privileges ...*sometimes we will post FREE offers for teachers on behalf of non-members)

To join our list-serv:

Use the drop-down list to select "psa-abcde" (fortunately we are the first one in the list!).

To post a message to our list-serv, please email Colin Plant at colinplant@shaw.ca
Our list-serv is moderated to avoid getting spammed.